

# WILDFIRE

## THE NEXT STORM



**he aftermath of recent hurricanes has left Louisiana with a large accumulation of vegetative debris which is drying out and causing a wildfire hazard.**



**o eliminate this debris, many homeowners are burning. However, extreme caution must be taken whenever burning debris, or you could be putting your home and neighborhood in jeopardy.**

# Safe Debris Burning



Cover debris piles with a sheet of plastic. When the surrounding vegetation is wet and you are ready to burn remove plastic and burn the piles. This reduces the chance of your fire spreading to surrounding vegetation.



Make sure that your piles have no vegetation within ten feet on any side.



Avoid building debris piles under overhanging tree limbs, power lines, or close to homes or other structures.



Have a water source and shovel located near the pile in case your fire spreads to surrounding vegetation.



Never leave a burning debris pile unattended. Stay until it's completely out.



Keep piles small. Suggested size is 5' x 5'. If you have more debris to burn, you can always add to the burn pile later as it burns down.



Make sure the pile is completely extinguished before you leave it. Drown with water. Stir the ashes with a rake or shovel. Feel for heat with the back of your hand a few inches from the ashes. If the pile is still hot, repeat the process until you're sure the fire is completely out.



Before burning, contact local agencies to determine if burn regulations are in effect.

**Remember: Fire safety is up to you.**

*A wildfire prevention public service  
message brought to you by:*  
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
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